



# SAIPAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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**2020**

## **Board of Directors**

February 27, 2020

### President

Velma Palacios

The Honorable Gregorio Kili Camacho Sablan

U.S. House of Representatives

### Vice President

Joe Guerrero

423 Cannon House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

### Treasurer

Michael Johnson

Re: H.R. 560: "Northern Mariana Islands Residents Relief Act": (to amend Section 6)

### Secretary

Tyrell Pauling

Dear Delegate Sablan:

### Directors

Alex Sablan

Marcia N. Calvo

Glen Hunter

Janel Pangelinan

Shayne Villanueva

We are writing as the collective voice of the business community on Saipan. Our Chamber comprises more than 140 private businesses, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations all collaborating to sustain our island's livelihood.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce congratulates you on the passage of H.R. 560 from the United States Congress House of Representatives. Long-term legal residents have played an integral role in growing and shaping our Commonwealth. A situation unique due to our historical relationship with the United States, our workers, families, and community needs a permanent solution to an issue that has created an unstable workforce and overall economy.

## **2020 Staff**

### Executive Director

Maxine Laszlo

### Coordinators

Noelani McMahon

Franco Santos

Your bill is a positive step in resolving our community's need for stability. As we continue to rebuild our economy after multiple catastrophic typhoons, fluctuations in industries, and most especially now with the collapse of our economy due to the Coronavirus Outbreak, the Commonwealth has a dire need for a solution for our long-term workers and investors. Their experiences, proven work records, and investments are an asset to our companies, our industries, and our islands. Most importantly, the solutions outlined in this bill would provide an avenue for existing investors and foreign workers to remain in the Commonwealth while not compromising our border security.

We appreciate your effort and attention to these issues that impact our economy.

Regards,

Velma M. Palacios

President

Saipan Chamber of Commerce